



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - November 12, 2003

- ***In the West***, precipitation is intensifying across ***southern California*** and parts of the ***Four Corners region***. Although the moisture is providing drought relief, local concerns related to heavy rainfall include mud slides in the recently burned areas of ***southern California*** and flash flooding elsewhere in the ***Southwest***. Meanwhile in the ***Northwest***, cold weather and unfavorably dry soils continue to limit winter wheat germination and growth.
- ***On the Plains***, another cold outbreak is maintaining a generally shallow snow cover for the poorly established winter wheat crop across ***northern portions of the region***. Farther south, cool weather is returning to the ***central and southern Plains***, where dryness continues to hinder winter wheat development in many areas.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, wet fields continue to slow corn and final soybean harvesting, especially along and south of a line from ***Iowa to Lower Michigan***. In addition, locally heavy rain lingers in the ***Ohio Valley***. Meanwhile, cold, windy weather is overspreading the ***northwestern Corn Belt***, where rain is changing to snow showers.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, including soybean and cotton harvesting, across the majority of the region. However, showers are developing across parts of the ***interior South*** in advance of a strong cold front.

Outlook: Showers and thunderstorms will precede and accompany a strong cold front crossing the ***eastern one-third of the U.S.***, while rain will change to wind-driven snow from the ***Great Lakes region into the Northeast***. Meanwhile, a slow-moving disturbance will trigger locally heavy precipitation from the ***Southwest to the southern Plains***. Later in the week, precipitation will spread as far north and east as ***central portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Elsewhere, a large area of high pressure will maintain cool, dry conditions through week's end. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 17-21 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, western Gulf Coast region, Delta, and Atlantic Coast States***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather is expected in a broad area from ***central and southern California northeastward into the upper Midwest***. Warmer-than-normal weather is forecast across the majority of the ***contiguous U.S.***, although near-normal temperatures will prevail in portions of the ***West***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>